

mal rate from all causes worked out as 9 1-3 per cent.

During the months covering the influenza outbreak—October, November, December and January—deaths of infants exactly doubled over the normal figure for these months, thus indicating that the invasion had a marked effect on women in pregnancy, "premature births" being of more than common occurrence.

Deaths of children under the age of 1 month increased by 50 per cent. over normal during this period, no doubt as a result of many mothers being rendered unfit to properly care for their offspring during the height of the epidemic.

48 children under the age of one year succumbed to influenza given as a direct cause of death, 65 died of broncho-pneumonia and 25 of lobar pneumonia, many of these last two causes doubtless being complicated with influenza.

170 babies died within 24 hours after birth, 71 lived one week, 118 died between the age of one week and one month.

This makes a total of 359 deaths under one month or 50 per cent. of the total deaths of infants for the fiscal year.

Physicians—Varicella Cases Should Always be Reported At Once.

The main issue which seems to concern those most interested in the subject of infant mortality is the question of improper feeding, or a poor milk supply and its possible bearing on diarrheal diseases, "summer complaint," etc., common to very young children.

Under the heading of "Diarrheal Diseases" (under 2 years) the deaths for 1918-19 show a total of 56 under 1 year—this including 10 under the age of 1 month. Therefore it is plainly evident that this class of diseases has but little bearing on the infant mortality situation in San Francisco, and we are led to believe that the character of our milk supply is largely responsible for this favorable showing.

As a matter of fact in a report issued several weeks since by the New York Milk Commission the City of San Francisco is credited as having the lowest infant mortality rate of any city in the Union with a population of 300,000 or over.

This finding was the result of an exhaustive survey made by this Commission covering the period for the calendar year 1918, its chief object being to secure data on deaths of infants caused by improper feeding and its consequent effect on the gastro-intestinal tract.

In the figures submitted by San Francisco in the questionnaire submitted by the New York Milk Commission the same relative ratio of deaths were maintained as set forth herein and we bore away the palm for conservation of infant life.

Without doubt our climatic conditions have much to do with the splendid general health of our babies—they can be kept out of doors practically all the year round—the excessive heat of summer and the rigors of severe winters are unknown to us—and as a result there is a vigor and vitality that is largely lacking in other large centers where the problem of overcrowding, extreme heat and cruel cold is always presented as the seasons roll around.

Physicians—Remember—The Importance of Promptly Reporting Births.

The last report received from the City of New York (week ending August 9) reports 271 deaths of children under one year during that period—140 from diarrheal diseases alone—at the same ratio this would mean 1084 per month, or one and one half as many as we have here in one year, and while it is true that their population is 10 times as large as ours, their baby deaths are 17 times as great.

Book Reviews

Medical Clinics of North America. Volume 2, Number 6 (May 1919); Baltimore Number. Octavo 287 pp. Published bi-monthly. Philadelphia and London: W. B. Saunders Company, 1919. Price per year, \$10.00.

L. F. Barker: Funicular myelitis. Julius Friedenwald: Personal experiences in treatment of ulcer of stomach. Various types of achylia gastrica as revealed by Rehfuess method of fractional analysis. John Ruhrah: Epidemic influenza in children. Gordon Wilson: Fundamentals in treatment of pulmonary tuberculosis. P. W. Clough: Pneumococcus sepsis. A. L. Bloomfield: Clinical diagnosis of epidemic influenza. T. R. Brown: Gastric signs and symptoms in diseases other than those of the stomach. J. H. King: Gastro-intestinal disturbances in metabolic diseases and diseases of the ductless glands. E. H. Gaither: Diet in treatment of digestive diseases. E. B. Freeman: Esophagoscopy as an aid in diagnosis and treatment of esophageal disease. F. H. Baetjer: Roentgenologic signs of joint lesions in children. Louis Hamman: Diabetes. Serous membrane tuberculosis. Auricular fibrillation. A. K. Krause: Multiple tuberculosis in childhood.

An Introduction to Neurology. By C. Judson Herrick, Ph. D., Professor of Neurology in the University of Chicago. Second edition; reset. 12mo of 394 pages; 140 illustrations. Philadelphia and London: W. B. Saunders Company, 1918. Cloth, \$2.00 net.

Though intended for medical or even pre-medical students, this is a valuable counselor and guide to that numerous body of practitioners to whom neurology is unexplored or ill explored land. Careful study of such a book as this will give anyone a sound basis for erecting diagnosis in nervous diseases, and at the same time will put him in the way of easy acquaintance with the advanced work in neurology which, without such introduction, is apt to be simply bewildering and discouraging.

The development of the nervous system is traced from the lowest organism, and throughout the work this relationship of morphology and function in man, to primitive forms and functions in the lower vertebrates and invertebrates is kept in mind. The clinical application of anatomical and physiological facts and laws is repeatedly insisted upon.

At the end of each chapter is a short but well selected bibliography of sources for those who wish to follow the subject further. With the index is combined a glossary which is a valuable inclusion.

The style is terse and idiomatic and the illustrations, many of which are original, are adequate without being elaborate. E. W. T.

Clinical Lectures on Infant Feeding: Boston Method by L. W. Hill; **Chicago Methods** by J. R. Gerstley. 377 pages. Philadelphia: Saunders. 1917. Price \$2.75.

This book is based on a series of lectures given in North Carolina at the invitation of the University of North Carolina and the State Board of Health. The circuit was six towns, and the authors differed in their background, Dr. Hill speaking for the American school of pediatrics, presenting clean milk, detailed infant hygiene, and percentage feedings as fundamental, in contrast to the European background from which Dr. Gerstley presents his lectures emphasizing the more complex and difficult types of feeding, making boiled milk the prerequisite for bottle-fed infants. This author, after presenting the Finkelstein method for